DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office action is in response to the amendment filed on 2/22/08.

2.   Claims 1-14 and 18-26 are pending.

3.   Claims 14 and 18-26 are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the prior art rejections of amended claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11 and 13 based on Mathis in view of Edelstein are moot in view of the new rejections.

5.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the prior art rejections based on Hu, and based on Mathis in view of Hansmann have been considered, but they are not persuasive.

6.   With respect the Hu rejections, applicant argues that in Hu "a client does not need to be registered with a proxy server that it might use ... [t]hus, Hu does not teach or reasonably suggest registering users with a discovery machine and establishing a direct link between the client and server as recited in claim 1." (Remarks, pg. 4) However, Hu expressly discloses logging into the authentication gateway to establish server credentials for the client before initiating communications with the server. Col. 5, lines 4-19. Hence, contrary to applicant's allegations, a client does need to be registered with the gateway system. Moreover, in response to applicant's arguments that Hu does not suggest that a direct link is established between the first client

machine and the second client machine because Hu discloses that communications
between the client and the server are communicated via the proxy server (Remarks,
pgs. 7-8), this argument is not persuasive because after a client establishes access to a
remote server via the gateway system, Hu discloses that the proxy server merely
forwards the communication between the client and the remote server (Col. 3:54-56),
which conforms to the enabling portion of applicant's specification which describes an
embodiment wherein a direct link is established between two clients. See pg. 18,
paragraph 83. For these reasons, the claims remain rejected under Hu.

7.   On pgs. 13-15 of the Remarks, applicant argues that the rejections under Mathis
in view of Hansmann, and Mathis in view of Hansmann and Waldo do not provide
sufficient motivation because the suggested motivation fails to identify a structure that
would perform the step. With respect to the supplied motivation combining Mathis and
Hansmann to show obviousness, which was identified as a more flexible means of
providing connectivity between clients, it is clearly established in Hansmann: the central
registry server enables a user device to connect with ever increasing services in a
flexible manner without knowing in advance which backend system provides the
required service (col. 2, lines 1-6). With respect to the supplied motivation combining
Mathis and Hansmann, and Waldo to show obviousness, which was identified as a
means to avoid attempting to access a service that is no longer available, it is
established in Hansmann and Waldo; Hansmann discloses a central registry server (fig.
1), and Waldo discloses a lookup service in a distributed network system that enables
registered clients to be notified of the status of a service, including if the service is not

available (col. 2, line 60-col. 3, line 2; col. 11, line 52-col. 12, line 18). Furthermore, the

central registry server of Hansmann requires both the client and the destination server

to register with the registry server before communication can be properly initiated. (fig.

1: registry server lists each client; col. 2, line 67-col. 3, line 9: the registry server

identifies which backend server corresponds to a selected service). Hence, contrary to

applicant's allegations, Mathis in view of Hansmann, and Mathis in view of Hansmann

and Waldo teach applicant's claimed invention. For these reasons, the claims remain

rejected under Mathis in view of Hansmann, and under Mathis in view of Hansmann and

Waldo.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated

by Hu US 5,586,260 (hereinafter Hu).

9.   As per claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 13, Hu discloses a method for communication over a

network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information

comprising:

      a.   registering with a discovery machine a first user and a second user,

      wherein the first user maintains a first client machine and the second user

      maintains a second client machine, wherein the first client machine, the second

      client machine and the discovery machine are coupled to a network; (4:17-43)

b.   initiating a communication from a second user via a second client machine to a first user via a first client machine through the discovery machine; (5:41-58)

c.   the discovery machine determining that the first user will accept the communication; (6:30-33)

d.   the discovery machine establishing a direct link between the first client machine and the second client machine; and delivering the communication; (fig. 4; upon completion of authentication, communication is established)

e.   wherein the direct link is not established if the first user does not accept the communication; (access to the server requires authentication of the client)

f.   wherein the direct link closes after the communication is delivered; (at termination of the call)

g.   further comprising the step of the second user initiating a new communication to the first user by establishing a new direct link between the second user machine and the first user machine; (fig. 4; upon completion of authentication, a direct link is established between the user machine and the server)

h.   wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to the new communication; (4:44-57; 5:8-12 and lines 50-53; 6:30-33)

i.   wherein the discovery machine is a central server. (fig. 2)

10.   Claims 1, 2 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Heiner US 6,112,227 (hereinafter Heiner).

11.   As per claims 1, 2 and 9-11, Heiner discloses a method for communication over

a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information

comprising:

    j.   registering with a discovery machine a first user and a second user,

    wherein the first user maintains a first client machine and the second user

    maintains a second client machine, wherein the first client machine, the second

    client machine and the discovery machine are coupled to a network; (3:39-55;

    4:24-26)

    k.   initiating a communication from a second user via a second client machine

    to a first user via a first client machine through the discovery machine; (3:10-12)

    l.   the discovery machine determining that the first user will accept the

    communication; (3:15-16)

    m.   the discovery machine establishing a direct link between the first client

    machine and the second client machine; and delivering the communication;

    (3:23-25)

    n.   wherein the direct link is not established if the first user does not accept

    the communication; (3:26-30)

    o.   wherein the direct link closes after the communication is delivered; (after

    delivery of message)

p.   wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of the first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via the discovery machine; (3:10-12)

q.   wherein at least one of the first user and second user can selectively block the new communication; (4:24-26)

r.   wherein a one-directional communication link is sent to the third user when at least one of the first and the second user when at least one of the first and the second user replies to the new communication wherein the one-directional communication link allows the third user to send a future communication directly to the first or second user; (once the destination client allows email from a source client, the source client will not be required to register)

s.   wherein the discovery machine is a central server. (3:14-15)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12.   Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathis in view of Hansmann et al. USPN 6,941,148 (hereinafter Hansmann)

13.   As per claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 13, Mathis discloses a method for communication over a network that allows for the authentication of individuals and control of information comprising:

      t.   initiating a communication from a second user via a second client machine

to a first user via a first client machine; wherein the first and second client

machine are coupled to a network; (fig. 1 and 3)

      u.   determining that the first user will accept the communication; (col. 3:39-40

and lines 54-55)

      v.   establishing a direct link between the first client machine and the second

client machine; and delivering the communication; (col. 3:63-4:12)

      w.   wherein the direct link is not established if the first user does not accept

the communication; (3:40-41)

      x.   wherein the direct link closes after the communication is delivered; (4:10-

12)

      y.   further comprising the step of the second user initiating a new

communication to the first user by establishing a new direct link between the

second user machine and the first user machine. (3:63-4:12)

14.   Mathis does not disclose the first user and the second user registering with a

discovery machine, wherein the discovery machine is coupled to the network; wherein

the communication is initiated via the discovery machine; the discovery machine

determining that the first user will accept the communication; the discovery machine

establishing a direct link between the first client machine and the second client machine;

wherein at least one of the first user and the second user maintains a plurality of contact

information; wherein an individual entry in the plurality of contact information is

automatically updated when an associated user of the individual entry updates a

corresponding entry locally at a client machine of the associated user; wherein a third

user can initiate a new communication to at least one of the first and the second user

via a web page interface coupled to the discovery machine; wherein the discovery

machine is a central server. Hansmann discloses a device registry for automatic

connection, whereby one or more user devices registers with a central registry server

then submits a request to access a service by selecting an icon on the user's display,

and wherein the request is forwarded to the central registry server, which mates the

request to a backend system providing the service; wherein the user device maintains a

list of registry server address. Col. 2:40-55 and lines 65-67; fig. 3. Hansmann discloses

that such a feature scales well: it enables a user device to connect with ever increasing

services in a flexible manner without knowing in advance which backend system

provides the required service. (2:1-6) Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the first user and the second user

to register with a discovery machine, wherein the discovery machine is coupled to the

network; wherein the communication is initiated via the discovery machine; the

discovery machine determining that the first user will accept the communication; the

discovery machine establishing a direct link between the first client machine and the

second client machine; wherein at least one of the first user and the second user

maintains a plurality of contact information; wherein an individual entry in the plurality of

contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of the individual

entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of the associated user;

wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of the first and the

second user via a web page interface coupled to the discovery machine; wherein the

discovery machine is a central server. One would be motivated to do so for a more

flexibility means of connecting a client to a plurality of other nodes as taught by

Hansmann, ibid. The aforementioned cover the limitations of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 13.

15.   As per claim 3, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Mathis in view of Hansmann is incorporated herein. In addition,

Hansmann discloses that the registry server establishes a connection to the backend

system via its backend router, wherein the router holds tables that define on which

backend system the required application is installed. It is further notoriously well known

in the art for routers to implement queuing disciplines; for example, in the event that a

destination is not available, a router implementing a fair queuing technique will queue

the flow directed to a nonresponsive destination. Official notice of this teaching is taken.

Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made such that if the first user is not available to receive the communication, the

communication is stored by the discovery machine until the first user becomes

available. One would be motivated to do so to handle latency experienced by the

communication. The aforementioned cover the limitations of claim 3.

16.   Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathis in

view of Hansmann, and further in view of Waldo.

17.   As per claim 12, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Mathis in view of Hansmann is incorporated herein. Neither Mathis

nor Hansmann disclose the step determining that the first user will accept the

communication further comprises the step of storing notification of the communication if

the first user is unavailable. Waldo disclose a lookup service in a distributed network

system that enables registered clients to be notified of the status of a service, including

if a service is not available (Col. 2:60-3:2; 11:52-12:18). It would be obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the step of determining

that the first user will accept the communication to further comprise the step of storing

notification of the communication if the first user is unavailable. One would be

motivated to do so for clients to avoid attempting to access a service that is no longer

available. (Waldo, Abstract)

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this
Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).
Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
      A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later
than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Communications Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUNG KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on FLEX.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jung Kim/
Primary Examiner   AU 2132